



SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Undergraduate Education, Student Affairs and Student Services

January 2018

Dear Parents and Families,

I hope this finds you enjoying the first few weeks of 2018. My colleagues and I are all looking forward to welcoming your student back to campus next week for the spring semester. I'm writing today to provide you with information about an update to Tufts' credit-hour system, which will be occurring in Summer 2018. We provided your student with this information at the end of last semester, and I want to make sure that you are also aware of this important and beneficial change at Tufts.

In Summer 2018, Tufts will convert from its current course credit system to the standard system of academic credit used by most universities around the U.S. Most students have been aware of the coming changes for the past few years, and [our communication to them in December](#) provided more concrete information about what the change in the credit system will mean. Please keep in mind, **we are not changing degree requirements**; we are only changing the numeric formula we use to calculate credits. These changes will make it easier for students to anticipate their workload and choose a balanced schedule. I want to offer you a few details now to keep you informed. For full information, please review our [Change to Credit Hour System](#) webpages.

What's Changing

Credit Hours Become Semester Hours

In our current credit system, almost all Tufts classes are assigned either 1.0 or 0.5 credits. Starting in Summer 2018, most classes will be assigned 3 or 4 semester hour credits. The semester hours for a given course have been determined by faculty committees that took into account the expected time students must commit to learn the content of the course, including classroom hours, assignments, and any additional course requirements such as a lab. Courses that require more class time and homework will be assigned a higher number of semester hours. The full list of courses and their semester hours will be available in spring 2018 in time for registration for Summer 2018 and Fall 2018.

Credit Conversion for Completed Courses

For students graduating after May 2018, we will convert all past credits earned. We will be converting all transcripts of continuing students in Summer 2018 to reflect the semester hour credit system and to make no change to student grade point averages. All credits earned prior to May 20, 2018 will be converted as follows:

- 1.0 credits = 4 semester hours
- 0.5 credits = 2 semester hours

Your student can calculate their current earned credits by multiplying their earned credits by four. For example: if your student has already earned 12 Tufts credits (including pre-matriculation credits and transfer credits), they have earned an equivalent of 48 semester hour credits.

Graduation Requirements

After May 20, 2018, all undergraduate students must earn **a minimum of 120 semester hour credits** to graduate, in addition to meeting all other [graduation requirements](#).

Full-Time Status and Course Load

Most undergraduates enroll in four or five courses each semester. That will not change in Fall 2018. In order to be considered full-time, students must enroll in at least 12 semester hours each term. That will be equivalent to four courses assigned 3 semester hours, or three courses assigned 4 semester hours, or some combination of courses assigned 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 semester hours. (Graduate students must enroll in 9 semester hours to maintain full-time status. This is standard at universities nation-wide.)

What's Not Changing

May 2018 Graduates

If your student graduates in May 2018 or earlier, they will see no changes.

GPA

A student's GPA earned up to May 21, 2018 will not change.

Graduation Requirements

After May 2018, in order to graduate, your student will still need to complete Tufts' current [graduation requirements](#):

- 8 semester full-time residency requirement
- Major Requirements
- Foundation, Distribution, and Language requirements, for Liberal Arts students in BA or BS degree program
- Introductory Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Engineering, HASS and other requirements for Engineering Students
- Academic credit in at least 34 courses (for Liberal Arts BA or BS degree program) or 36 or 38 courses (for Engineering BS)
- BFA studio requirement (adding up to at least 76 semester-hours) and non-studio course requirements (14 courses)

If your student has met these requirements, they should easily meet the 120 minimum semester hour credits.

Questions and Concerns

If your student has questions or concerns about these changes, there will be information sessions for students beginning in January. Meanwhile, your student may reach out to their advisor, a [Student Success Advisor](#), or their [advising dean](#).

We have also created a webpage with more detailed information and [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Again, I hope you are enjoying the New Year, and I hope that winter break has given you a chance to connect with your student, as well as friends and family. Please don't hesitate to have your student contact a member of our [Advising Team](#) whenever they think we can be helpful.

Sincerely,

Carmen Lowe
Dean of Undergraduate Studies